



Topeka shiner

Notropis Topeka

Kingdom:	Animalia
Division/Phylum:	Chordata - vertebrates
Class:	Osteichthyes
Family:	Cypriniformes
Order:	Cyprinidae

Features

The Topeka shiner has a stout body that is only slightly flattened side to side. The back is straw colored and the scales are edged with darker color. The sides are silvery and the belly is silvery white. A prominent dusky band extends along the side of the fish and ends in a small wedge-shaped spot at the base of the tail. The small mouth is located at the tip of the snout. The lower fins of breeding males are bright red or orange. Adults reach about three inches long.

Natural History

The Topeka shiner is most abundant in the upper Des Moines and Raccoon Rivers with a few scattered populations in the northwest and east-central streams. It is found in areas with sandy bottoms. It spawns from late June through August. It is federally endangered.

Habitats

interior rivers and streams

Iowa Status

federally endangered; native

The Topeka shiner historically lived in intermittent headwater streams with rocky bottoms. Siltation which fills in pools or channelization which eliminates pools removes crucial habitat. Impoundments on small streams may also inundate habitats and introduce predators such as largemouth bass. An Iowa State University study found Topeka shiners in oxbows and other off-channel habitats rather than in the main channel.

Iowa Range

Des Moines lobe with scattered populations in northwest and southeast Iowa

Bibliography

Iowa Department of Natural Resources. 2001.
Biodiversity of Iowa: Aquatic Habitats CD-ROM.